The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 5 MARCH 1965

Convention To Consider Crucial Matters In April

The most important item of business to come before the delegates to the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention April 24-25 is the proposal to form a United Church Conference.

The proposal has been approved by the board of directors of the convention and will be submitted with its recommendation that it be adopted.

The plan would bring together the 105 churches of the convention, the four Evangelical and Reformed Churches in the area, and the twenty-five Negro Congregational Christian congregations of the Convention of the South. According to the plan the effective date would be January 1, 1966.

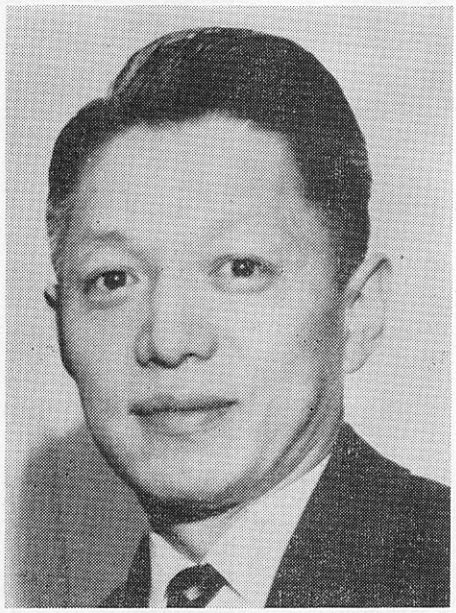
Of course the churches of the Southeast Convention which have not voted to be a part of the United Church would continue to have Congregational Christian standing only, but their membership would be in the convention and the new conference.

The plan would not make any changes for the present in the associations and conferences of the convention. The reorganization of these would take place at a later date and at their initiative.

All over the denomination the new conferences are being formed on a geographical basis. As a matter of fact, it is only here in the southeast that agreement has yet to be reached to form a United Church Conference. This makes it all the more important that affirmative action be taken this spring.

In addition to this important matter of business, the delegates to the annual meeting will also hear reports from the standing committees of the convention and will consider other items of business.

Of major concern will be the plan to have an every-church-visitation in support of Our Christian World Mission next fall. This project will be undertaken throughout the whole of the denomination.



REV. GEORGE NISHIMOTO

REV. DR. BEN M. HERBSTER

Southeast Convention 1965 Annual Meeting Scheduled April 24-25 At Atlanta, Georgia

The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches will hold its thirteenth annual sessions on Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, 1965, at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Rev. Frederick A. Meyer is the pastor of the host church. The offices of the Southeast Convention are in the church building.

The Rev. Harold C. Henderson, moderator of the convention, will call the sessions to order at 10:30 a. m., Eastern Standard Time, on Saturday, April 24. Mr. Henderson is the pastor of the new United Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

The two-day meeting will adjourn following the morning worship service on Sunday, April 25.

The Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, will address the convention on Saturday afternoon and deliver the sermon at the Sunday morning service.

The Rev. George Nishimoto, secretary for Church Vocations of the United Church of Christ, will address the convention on Saturday morning and will be present for the sessions.

Mr. E. Dale Peak of Holladay, Utah, chairman of the Churchmen's Fellowship Department of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ, is to be the guest speaker at the joint banquet of the Women's and Churchmen's Fellowships on Saturday night.

Mrs. Edward A. Askren Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, is president of the convention Women's Fellowship. Mr. Millard Fuller, of Montgomery, Alabama, is president of the Churchmen's Fellowship.

Also scheduled to meet during the sessions is the Church Builders Club. Rev. Bill Hodnett, Lanett, Alabama, is president.

Every church in the convention should be represented at this important meeting by its pastor and elected delegates. Full information is being sent to the ministers and churches.

Life Of Mrs. George Kennedy Is Inspiration To Community

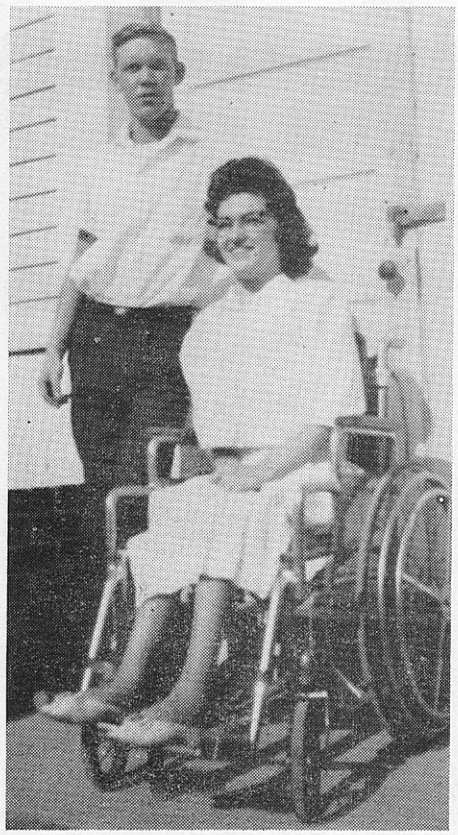
By Rev. Annie R. Campbell

Doris is a young, happily-married woman of twenty-two. She is a wholesome, attractive, well-adjusted individual.

What makes her different from anyone else? Doris had three kinds of polio when she was ten years old. She lost the use of her legs, one hand, and her back was left twisted. Doris was discouraged and despondent as any child would have been. Though she was treated at Knoxville's Crippled Children's Hospital, she longed to go to Warm Springs. The county welfare person had tried, but there seemed to be no opening there. One morning when her home bound teacher came for her lessons, she found the child particularly downcast. She suggested that she write to President Eisenhower who was visiting some friends in Georgia. This she did, in her own language in her own way, with only minor corrections being made by her teacher. In a very short time word came that she was to go to Warm Springs.

But life was never easy and simple. Her parents had to learn how to administer physical therapy on the kitchen table, which was brought into the living room where it was warm. Always thoughtful, even as a child, she would wait until she heard her mother's feet touch the floor in the morning before she would ask to have the painful and uncomfortable 'harness' removed. Doris' brothers sold their pony to put the money toward a television so it would be something which she could enjoy too. They have never had much money. Her mother sewed for people to supplement the family income.

I have known Doris for four years now. Soon after my arrival she was elected PF president and she made an excellent one as she was adept with the telephone and with planning and getting things done. She had just finished high school and her teacher tells me that she could have been valedictorian of the class, but begged her not to give her such grades that she would be. (Doris told me that she did not think it would be fair to those in the class where they had been associated with one another through the years). When I first came to my parish, Doris had just finished a correspondence course in General Office Practices and was taking a course in typing. She



Pictured above are Doris and George Kennedy in front of the church in Deer Lodge, Tennessee. They are expecting a baby during the summer months.

was willing and I shoved the work her way to type some much needed copies of our Christmas plays. She showed me her certificate when it arrived — "one handed typing course"! Since then she has also studied Speed Writing and Bookkeeping. There is a Regional Library at Deer Lodge and the librarian sends her several books a week and she really reads them. I took her some occasionally from our church library at Robbins. She is an inveterate reader.

On Easter in 1963 she made her Confession of Faith, and was baptized and came into the membership of our Congregational Christian Church at Deer Lodge. She had long been active in the church and a professing Christian.

Romance did not pass her by. George Kennedy, sensitive and tenderhearted, had visited and cared for and entertained two boys in a family in the neighborhood who had muscular dystrophy. When they passed away he brought their pet, a canary, and transferred his interest and his affection to Doris. George helped to lift her about and took her places in her wheel chair. He accompanied her and her mother when she made her annual trips to Warm Springs to have her support garments made and her wheel chair serviced. In May, 1963, Doris Tompkins and George Kennedy, along with another couple, had a double wedding in the little white church. A reception followed in the new, unfinished addition to the church where the men had worked late to finish the roof so that it would be possible. A shower was given for Doris and someone thoughtfully gave her an adjustable ironing board. She does her own housekeeping and manages quite well from her wheel chair. She says that it is harder to sweep than to mop, and ironing pants almost has her floored. She does not have as much time to read now as she once did. In the church, Doris serves as church clerk, Sunday School teacher, teacher in Vacation Bible School, and edits and cuts the stencils for the monthly parish newsletter. In the community she usually acts ac chairman or helps with the polio drive. To help supplement the family income and to use her own abilities, she serves as a substitute teacher at the grade school in Deer Lodge (the children like to argue over who will wheel her to the lunch room) and helps out occasionally with office work in the county agricultural office at Wartburg.

Doris has a mind of her own and enjoys a good argument.

Doris is such a 'whole' person that many of us find ourselves leaning on her for help. Recently her mother broke her leg and had to have it put in a long heavy cast. Doris came over during the day to cook and clean house and help her mother can. Others came in to get an occasional bucket of water or to gather the things for canning. Instead of the 'blind leading the blind' it was the 'lame leading the lame' and in wheel chairs at that! Doris said they had considered having a 'drag' race! And don't think that they want or need pity. Heavens — NO!

Everyone rejoiced with the family when one of Doris' brothers finished high school, taking an electronics course, and obtained an on-the-spot training job at Oak Ridge.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

The Rev. Claude W. Warren

The Rev. Claude W. Warren, who served Pilgrim Church Birmingham, and the United Church, Huntsville, as interim pastor, died in LaGrange, Illinois on January 15.

Dr. Warren, who was serving as chaplain of the Pilgrim House Retirement Center, was 83. In addition to serving on the faculty of Northland College, Wisconsin, for 5 years, he was a Congregational Christian minister for more than 40 years and actively supported the formation of the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Warren's son, Professor Richard Warren, and his family are in Germany where he is studying. They formerly were members of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham.

Dr. Warren is well remembered throughout the convention for his enthusiastic and helpful participation in the activities of the churches during the time he served in this area.

* * * *

Dr. William Kendrick Grobel

Word has been received in the convention office of the recent death of Dr. William Kendrick Grobel of Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Grobel was on the faculty of the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University. In addition, he held ministerial standing in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and was active in the work of the churches of both the Southeast Convention and the Convention of the South in this area. At a later date a more complete story will be published.

* * * *

Dr. Henry Tani

The young people who attended the last annual meeting of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim/Youth Fellowship will be sorry to learn of the death of Dr. Henry N. Tani, who was the guest speaker for the meeting.

Dr. Tani, who had resigned as secretary of Youth Ministry for the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries, was serving as director of Christian Education of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

He died on Sunday, February 21, of a heart attack while driving to keep an appointment. He was 50 years old. He is survived by his wife, 4 sons, and a daughter.

World Emergency Needs Met By Church People

Poverty, hunger, political upheaval, natural disasters, disease — the distresses afflicting our fellow men throughout the world are many.

Our churches this year seek more than $15 million to help alleviate suffering through their world-wide programs of assistance to the needy overseas. The greater portion of these funds will be raised through the 1965 One Great Hour of Sharing, to be observed in most participating churches on Sunday, March 28.

This is the seventeenth annual observance of One Great Hour of Sharing, the principal effort of the United Appeal for overseas relief, rehabilitation and inter-church aid through which major Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions cooperate in seeking support for their overseas programs, both denominational and interdenominational.

Millions of Americans, in making contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing and related appeals provide emergency food, medicines, clothing and shelter for victims of famine, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters; help resettle and rehabilitate refugees; assist orphans and the elderly, and patients in hospitals and clinics, and help break patterns of poverty by supporting vocational training, self-help projects, and community development.

Funds raised in One Great Hour of Sharing will also help support educational projects such as assistance to schools, student exchange programs and the training of young persons from overseas, both here and abroad, for future service and leadership in their homelands.

To tell the story of what churches are doing to help people in need overseas the motion picture "PROFILES OF PROMISE" is available from the convention office. It is a 16 mm black and white film that runs for 28 minutes.

The film tells about projects in Calama, Chile, in northern Ghana and in Calcutta, India.

Also available from the convention office are the filmstrips "My Sister Hilwa", "The Church and Human Need", "More than Warmth", "One Traveler", and "A New Language for Kim Po."

Every church is urged to participate in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Miss Helen C. Jenkins, Noted Educator, Passes

Miss Helen C. Jenkins, former principal of Thorsby Institute, died on Tuesday, February 9th, after a lingering illness.

Funeral services were held in Thorsby on Friday, February 12, and graveside services were held in LaGrange, Ga., on Saturday, February 13.

Miss Jenkins was one of the most illustrious citizens of Thorsby, Alabama. She was also one of the nation's leading Christian educators. For forty years she was principal of Thorsby Institute, the first high school in Chilton County, Alabama, and rated one of the highest accredited high schools in the country.

The school was established in 1906 and Miss Jenkins joined the faculty a year later in 1907. After serving as associate principal from 1909 to 1917, she was principal from 1917 to 1957, at which time she and the trustees of the institution deeded the property to the state of Alabama and it became Thorsby High School.

The auditorium and main building of the school is known as Helen Jenkins Hall.

Miss Jenkins was born July 11, 1885, at South Coventry, Conn., the daughter of Frank Edwin and Sarah Eliza (Stanley) Jenkins. She graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, Massachusetts, and received a master's degree from the University of Syracuse. She was listed in Who's Who in America. She was beloved by members of churches in the area and countless students who attended the institute.

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Superintendent's Corner

On this page is the church by church list of contributions to Our Christian World Mission for 1963 and 1964. There is cause for rejoicing that the churches contributed $2,181 more in 1964 than in 1963.

Even though the 1963 totals included $1,255 for the Woman's Gift, the total for 1964 (which does not include the $1,479 Family Thank Offering which replaces the Woman's Gift) is slightly above 1963. It should be noted that The Family Thank Offering is not included in Our Christian World Mission. It is a gift beyond our regular support of our mission.

Of the 103 active churches of the convention, 59 contributed to OCWM. Of these 24 gave more than last year, 24 gave less than last year, and 11 gave the same amount.

44 churches made no contribution at all to Our Christian World Mission. Last year 37 churches made no contribution, which makes an increase of 7 in the non-contributing churches. 34 churches that did not contribute in 1963 gave nothing in 1964. 10 churches that made contributions in 1963 failed to participate in 1964. 3 churches that did not contribute in 1963 did so in 1964.

Each year the convention receives $2,000 less in subsidy from the Board for Homeland Ministries. Unless the churches increase their support each year by at least 10% the budget and program of the convention must be cut. This year the convention is receiving just $2883 in regular subsidy from the BHM.

Therefore, it is more important than ever that the churches make regular monthly contributions to OCWM. How is your church doing?

Our Christian World Mission Receipts 1964

ALABAMA	1963	1964
Alexander City, Antioch	0	0
Alexander City, Hunt	0	0
Andalusia, Antioch	100.	0
Andalusia, Coldwater	0	0
Andalusia, First	93.	0
Andalusia, New Home	0	0
Arley, Robertsons Ch.	30.	25.
Ashland, Bethel	0	0
Birmingham, Pilgrim	1,529.	1,474.
Brantley, Indian Creek	51.	15.
Brantley, Liberty	0	0
Caddo, C. C.	125.	125.
Clio, New Hope	125.	0
Dadeville, Elder	104.	126.
East Tallassee	462.	413.
Eclectic, Watsons Ch.	0	0
Five Points, State Line	0	0
Garden City	200.	200.
Hackleburg, Fairview	60.	69.
Haleyville, Union Grove	72.	72.
Hanceville, Mt. Grove	25.	50.
Headland, Blackwood	220.	321.
Houston, Liberty Hill	3.	0
Huntsville, United	598.	1,248.
LaFayette, Pleas. Grove	105.	0
Lanett, C. C.	3,024.	3,579.
Lanett, Huguley	0	0
Langdale, C. C.	2,001.	2,005.
Lineville, New Harmony	13.	15.
Midland City, Chr. Hill	0	0
Montgomery, United	401.	600.
Moulton, Jones Chapel	0	0
Mt. Creek, Union	30.	0
Phenix City, First	50.	26.
Phenix City, Russell Woods	50.	30.
Pisgah	0	10.
Roanoke, Antioch	140.	100.
Roanoke, Bethany	0	0
Roanoke, First	0	0
Roanoke, Forest Home	40.	0
Roanoke, Lowell	400.	425.
Roanoke, Mt. Zion	0	0
Roanoke, New Hope	177.	175.
Roanoke, Rock Springs	0	0
Roanoke, Rock Stand	100.	100.
Seman, Balm of Gilead	0	0
Seman, Community	0	0
Shawmut, Todd	150.	150.
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	48.	40.
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	90.	90.
Town Creek, Old Liberty	0	0
Wadley, Beulah	0	0
Wadley, Christian	520.	488.
Wadley, Corinth	35.	10.
Wedowee, Cavers Grove	0	0
Wedowee, Noon Day	0	0

FLORIDA		
Baker, Good Hope	0	0
Baker, Pyrons Chapel	0	0
Bonifay, New Effort	180.	30.
Crestview, Dorcas	0	25.
GEORGIA		
Ambrose, Christian	0	0
Atlanta, Center	240.	300.
Atlanta, Central	5,012.	6,653.
Barnesville, Fredonia	400.	450.
Baxley, Friendship	0	0
Bowman, Liberty	48.	22.
Braselton, Macedonia	46.	45.
Bristol, Antioch	0	0
Buford, Duncans Creek	30.	0
Columbus, First	420.	505.
Columbus, United	60.	70.
Crest, Hebron	0	0
Demorest, Federated	415.	300.
Doerun, New Light	0	0
Doerun, Poplar Arbor	0	0
Douglas, First	0	0
Enigma, Christian	0	0
Gaillard, Pleasant Hill	25.	36.
Hampton, County Line	60.	60.
LaGrange, Hillside	60.	0
LaGrange, United	771.	1,094.
Meansville, First	45.	20.
Meansville, Liberty (Inactive)		
Pearson, Union Hill	208.	208.
Pine Mt., Oak Grove	600.	615.
Richland, First	100.	25.
Richland, Prov. Chapel	0	0
Tifton, First (Inactive)		
Tifton, Vanceville	0	0
Waycross, Williams Ch.	132.	159.
West Point, Bethel	313.	321.
Woodbury, Jones Ch.	0	30.
KENTUCKY		
Evarts, First	910.	840.
Stearns, Comm.	0	0
SOUTH CAROLINA		
Charleston, Circular	1,020	1,020.
TENNESSEE		
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	4,084.	4,433.
Crossville, First	899.	810.
Daisy, Cong'l. Chr.	150.	0
Deer Lodge	140.	167.
Glen Mary	90.	90.
Knoxville, First	473.	208.
Nashville, Brookmeade	700.	200.
Pleasant Hill, Comm.	580.	550.
Robbins, Barton Ch.	128.	124.
Soddy, First	200.	100.
TOTAL	29,710.	31,891.
Church Undesignated	2,383*	627*
Grand Total	32,093.	32,118.

*The Woman's Gift was included in OCWM in 1963. The Family Thank Offering was not included in OCWM in 1964.

People... Churches... Events...

Elder Church Has Youth Observance

Youth Sunday was observed at Elder Congregational Christian Church on February 7th. We did not use the material from the Youth Week Packet but chose the theme, "What Shall We Do With Our Lives?" The program began with the young people taking complete charge of the Sunday School. Danny Roberts was acting superintendent for the day and Debbie Ingram was secretary. Jimmy Freeman led the singing, with Sandra Freeman and Ginger Jennings taking turns playing the piano. The opening devotions were given by the Junior PF'ers. Those teaching classes were Janet Young, Lynn Brassel, Laura Ingram, Janet Washburn, Randall Fuller, and Ann Nelson.

During the worship hour the message for the morning was delivered by Lynn Brassel. The topic was "What Shall We Do With Our Lives?"

Those taking part, in addition to those mentioned before, were Jane and Lane Ingram, Ann Nelson, Sylvia Freeman, Pam Duck, Betty Danford, Glynn Fuller, Johnny Roberts, Larry and Rex Young, and Dale Brassel.

The women of the church have just pieced and quilted a quilt for the Orphan's Home. They are working now on several Material Air projects, and are furnishing a Social Room for the church.

A most enthusiastic group in the church is the newly organized Junior Pilgrim Fellowship. They only have eight members but under the leadership of Mrs. Warren Blankenhorn, Mrs. Ronnie Jennings, and Mrs. Barrett Ingram, are proving that it doesn't take a big crowd to do things and have a good time.

The men of the church are meeting regularly on first Saturday evenings. Their meeting always begins with a big supper at the home of one of the members. At several of their recent meetings they have had guest speakers whom they have enjoyed very much.

The Rev. Warren Blankenhorn of Phenix City is pastoring the church. He and Mrs. Blankenhorn are working very hard and we are looking forward to a good year under their leadership.

Mrs. Woodroe Washburn

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Robert W. Hendrix, Jr.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert W. Hendrix of Waycross, Georgia, are the proud parents of a son, Robert W. Hendrix, Jr., born on February 25. Both son and mother (Myra) were doing fine at last reports.

* * * *

Summer Camps

The Junior and Senior High Camps for the young people of Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Northwest Florida will be held at Laura Walker State Park, Waycross, Georgia, August 1-7.

The dates and places of the camps for Kentucky and Tennessee will be announced later. It is anticipated that they will be in June.

A Consultation on the Ministry under the auspices of the Council on Church and Ministry of the United Church was held for the southern region on February 17-18 at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta.

* * * *

Church and Ministry

Representatives from the national staff of the council and from the Florida Conference, South Central Conference, Convention of the South, Southern Convention, Southern Synod and the Southeast Convention were present.

Representing the Southeast Convention were Rev. W. Raymond Berry, Rev. W. W. Hall, Rev. William R. Winterbottom, Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, and Supt. James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, now of Ft. Worth, Texas, but formerly pastor of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, was present. In addition to his own, he brought greetings from Mrs. (Marguerite) Baldwin and Kathy.

* * * *

Rev. Harold W. Freer

The Rev. Harold W. Freer, formerly pastor of the Crossville, Tenn., Church, was a recent visitor to this area. Now the executive director of the Disciplined Order of Christ, with offices in Cleveland, Ohio, he spoke in Chattanooga, Tenn., and also visited Crossville and spoke there.

United Church, LaGrange, To Build New Parsonage

The United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, has already started building the "New Parsonage" which will be finished in a short time. We are sure the pastor and his family will enjoy living in it. Also, new doors and a stoop are to be added to the church.

The "Joseph E. Storey" Sunday School Class has picked up in new attendance, and we are proud of this. They have also started on their new project for the year, gathering old, discarded toys and making them look new for some poor children who might otherwise get nothing at all next Christmas. We hope this project will prove very successful, and we are sure the class will receive many blessings for this good cause.

February 14th Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cobb presented their little daughter for christening. She has been named Pamela Jane.

The Rev. Floyd Carmack's mother, Mrs. Claris Sayers, has been confined to the hospital with a broken hip. Also, Mrs. G. C. Cole, a member of United Church, has been confined with a broken hip. Both these accidents occurred within 15 minutes of the other. Another member, Mrs. Underwood, has been in the hospital; also our choir director's sister. It is so pathetic to see so many ill and suffering. Our prayers go out to them and we hope they will soon be well.

We have lost two dear members from our church lately, Mr. Ben Fowler and Mr. R. L. Farrar. Mr. Farrar was also a 60 Plus Club member. The men's Sunday School class he attended has been named after him. Both these members will be greatly missed by all of United Church.

Mrs. Ernest Lipham
Church Reporter

Interesting Note

In a recent issue of The Reader's Digest the following item appeared.

"In Shirley, Mass., the Rev. Ray Meserve politely requested the "godly" to stay away from his special "sinners only" service, and thereupon had the biggest attendance since Easter."

Mr. Meserve was pastor of the church in Knoxville, Tenn., until ill health forced his resignation about a year ago.

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